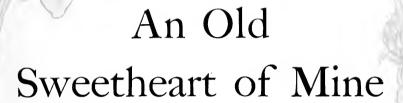








- Heart Chundler Phristy now



James Whitcomb Riley

Drawings by

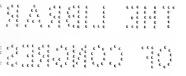
Howard Chandler Christy

Decorations by Virginia Keep

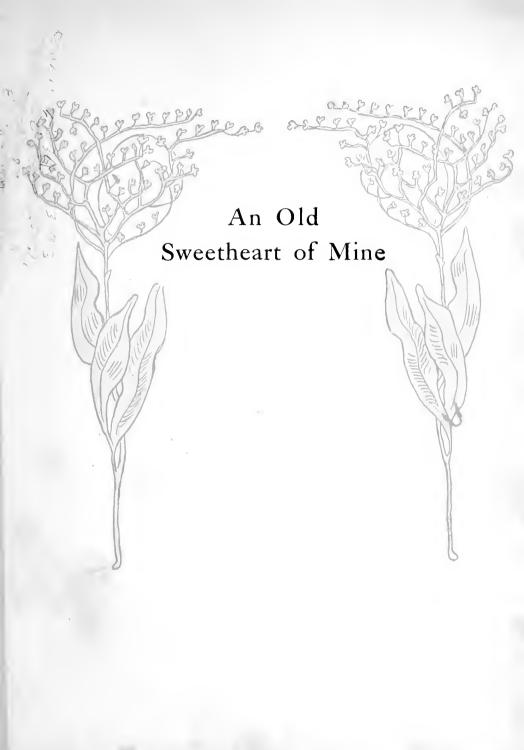
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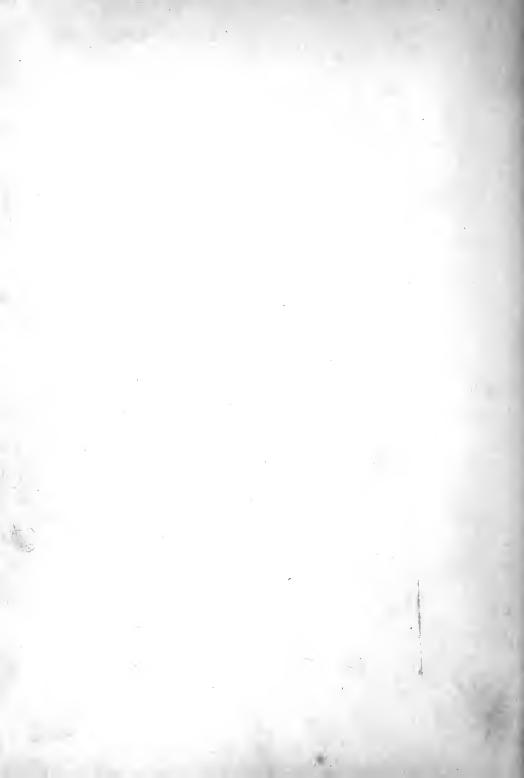


Inscribed

To GEORGE C. HITT

The beginning of whose steadfast friendship was marked by the first publication of these verses which now, expanded by writer, honored by publisher and masterfully graced by artist, seem to be a worthier symbol of the author's grateful and affectionate regard for his earliest friend







- I Frontispiece—An Old Sweetheart of Mine.
- II A fair, illusive vision that would vanish into air
- III The then of changeless sunny days—The now of shower and shine
 - IV The old bookshelves and prints along the wall
 - V I find the smiling features of an old sweetheart of mine
 - VI Its fate with my tobacco and to vanish with the smoke



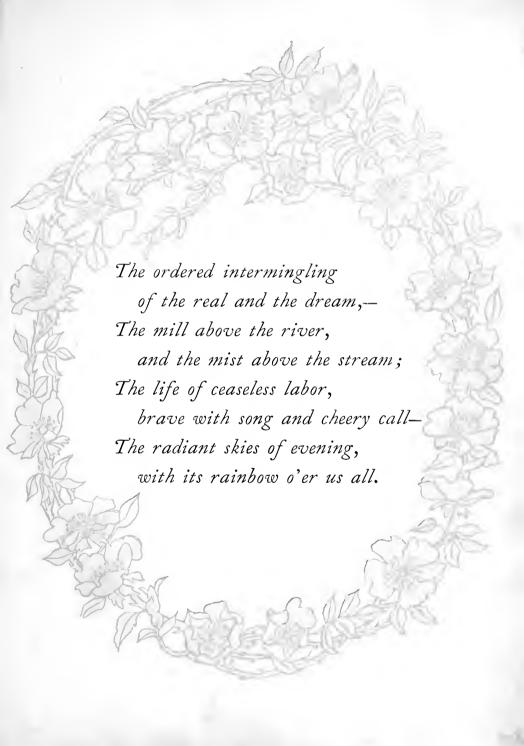
List of Illustrations

- VII When my truant fancies wander with that old sweetheart of mine
- VIII The voices of my children and the mother as she sings
 - IX For I find an extra flavor in Memory's mellow wine
 - X O childhood days enchanted! O the magic of the spring
 - XI To—smile, behind my lesson, at that old sweetheart of mine
 - XII A face of lily-beauty, with a form of airy grace

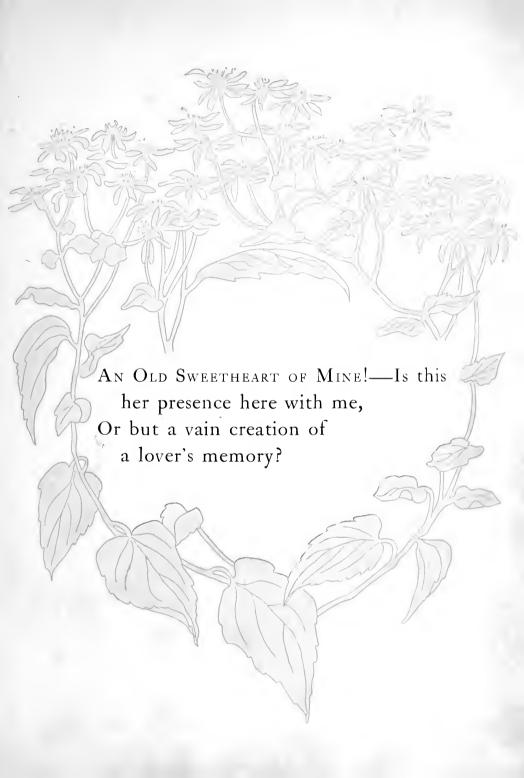


- XIII When first I kissed her, and she answered the caress
- XIV I slipped the apple in it—and the teacher didn't know
 - XV She gave me her photograph, and printed "Ever Thine"
- XVI And again I feel the pressure of her slender little hand
- XVII Where the vines were ever fruited, and the weather ever fine
- XVIII And she my faithful sweetheart till the golden hair was gray
 - XIX The door is softly opened, and—my wife is standing there





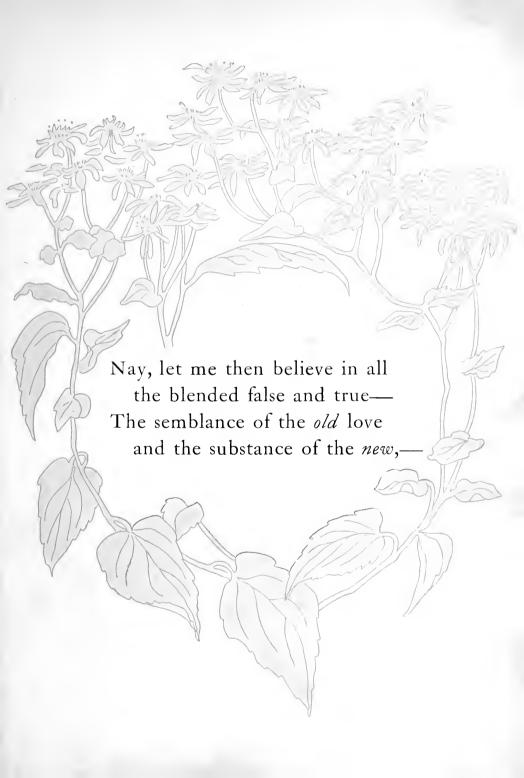




A fair, illusive vision that would vanish into air Dared I even touch the silence with the whisper of a prayer?



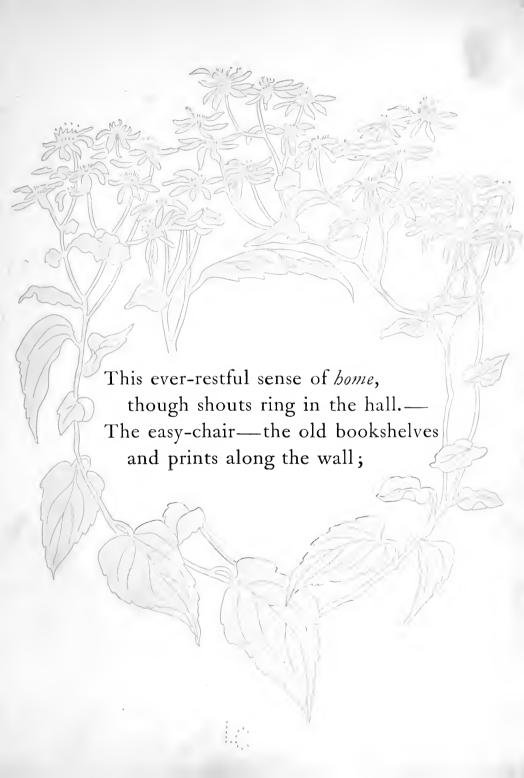


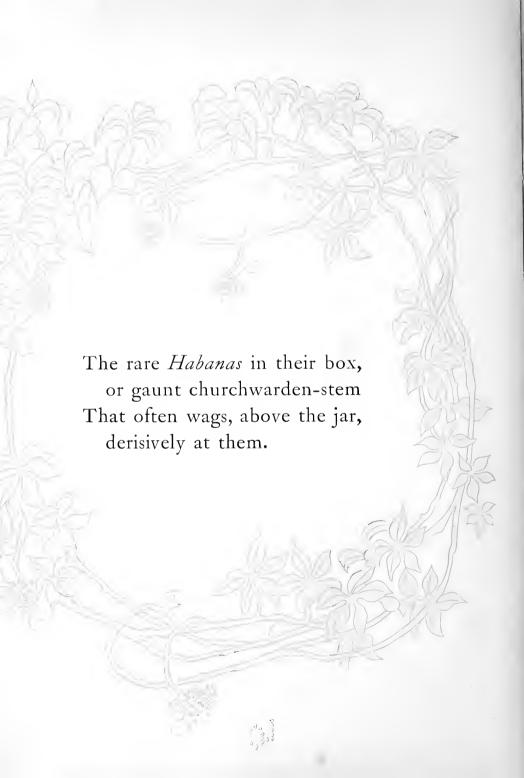


The then of changeless sunny daysthe now of shower and shine-But Love forever smiling, as that old sweetheart of mine.





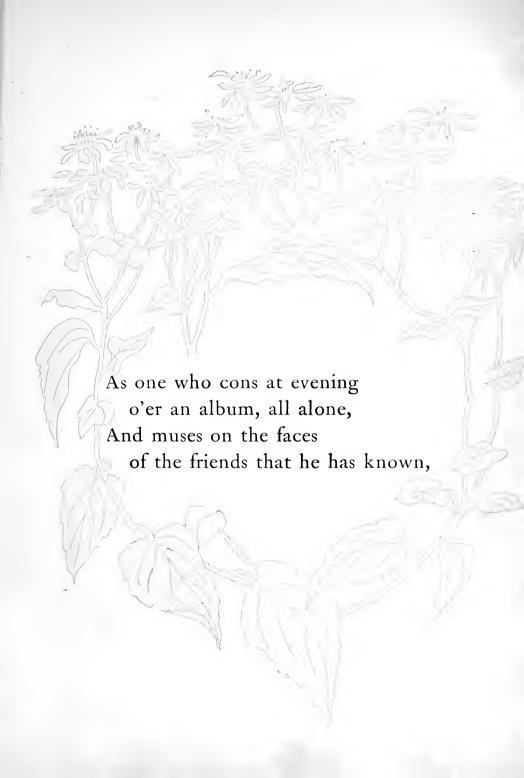


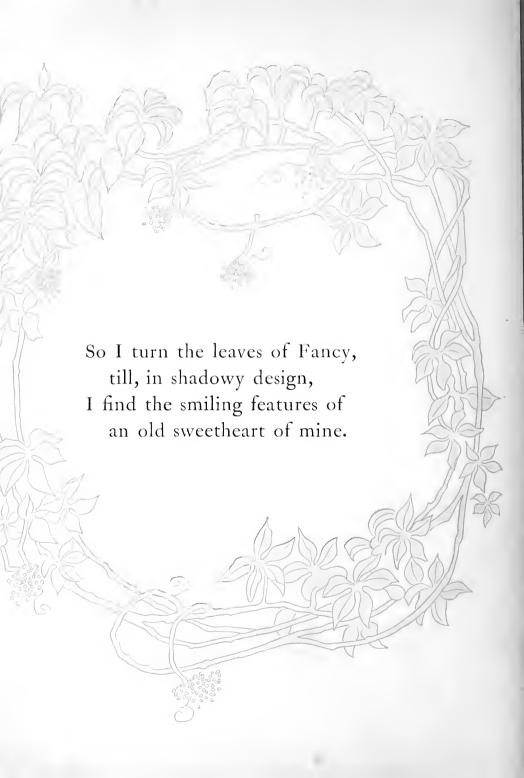




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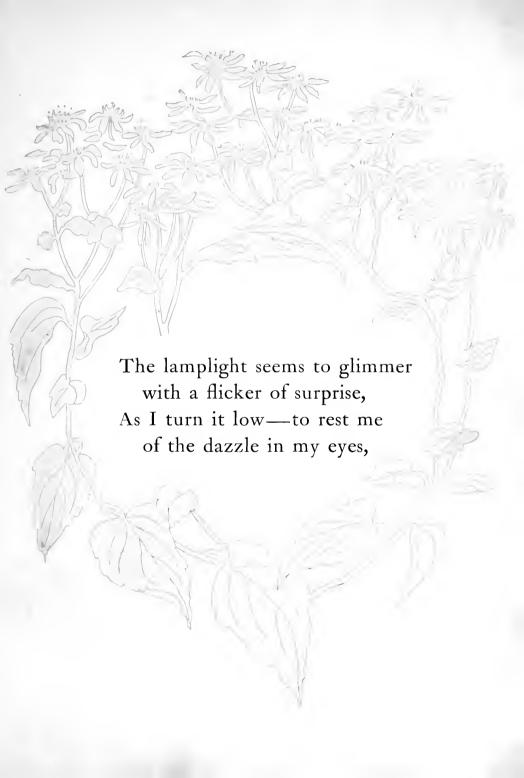


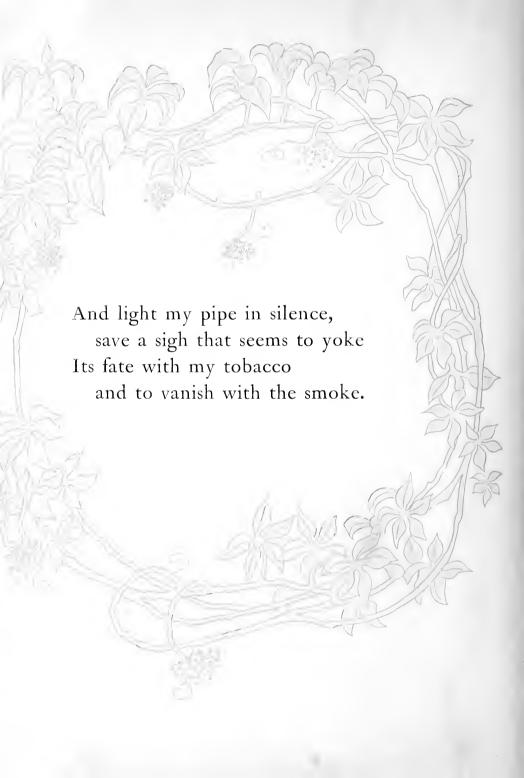






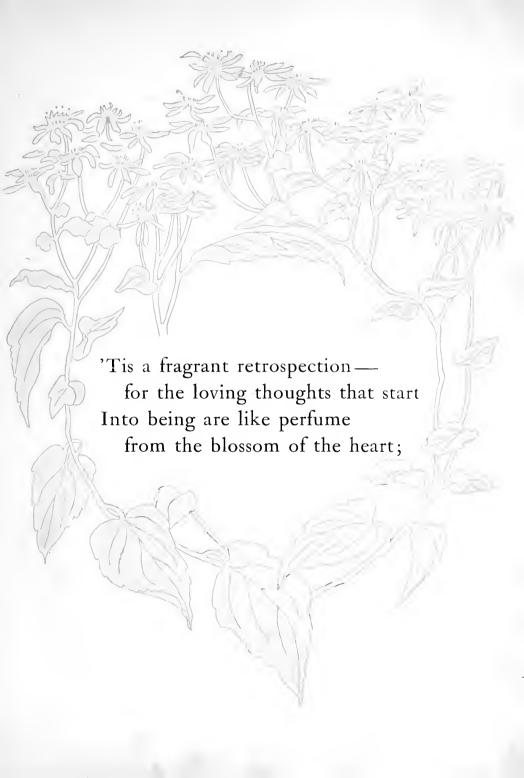


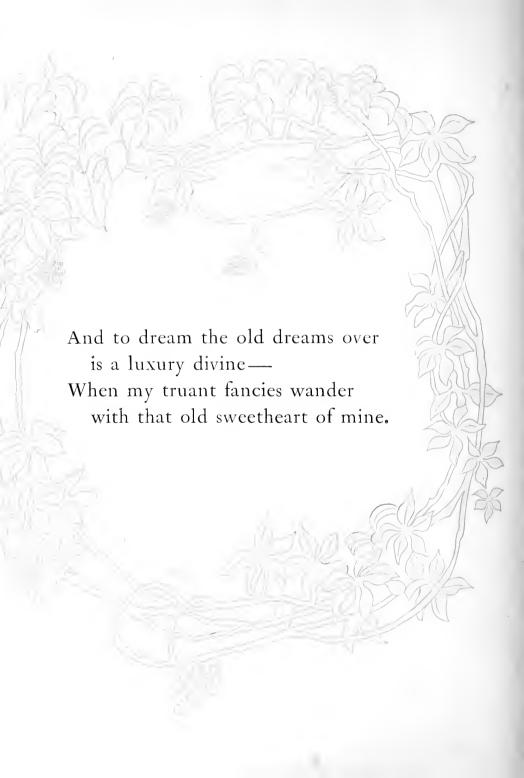








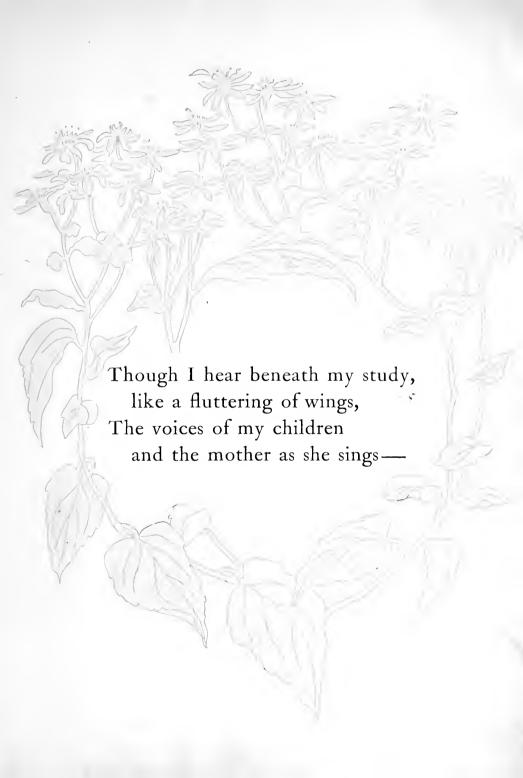


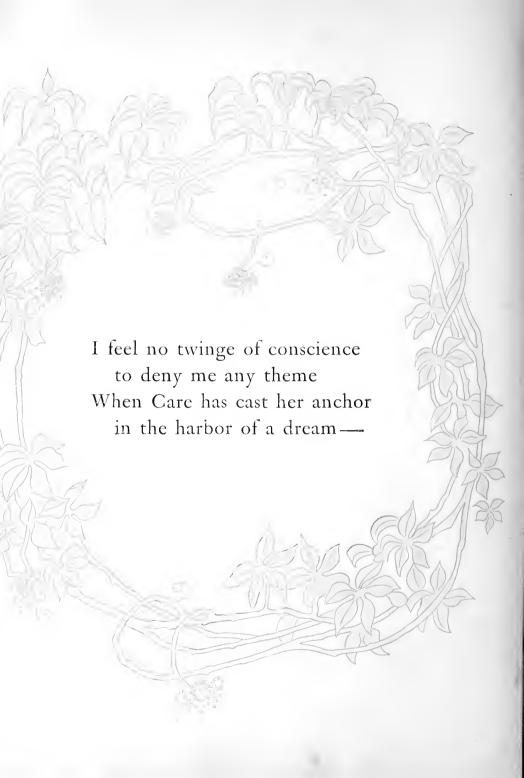




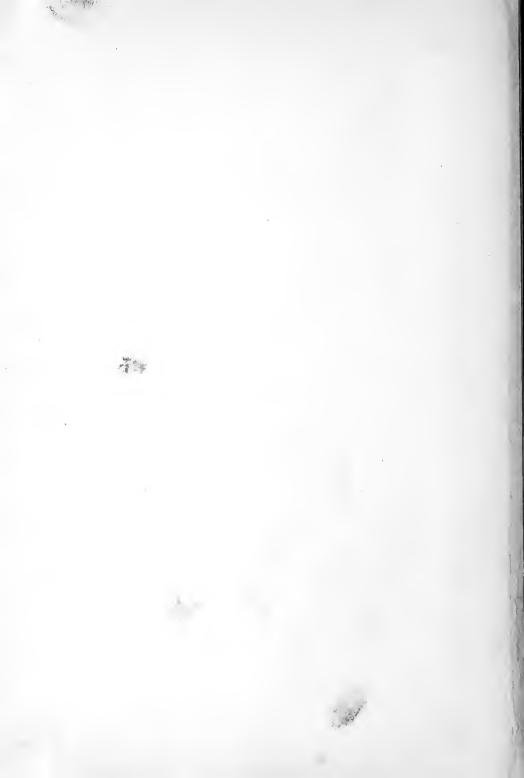
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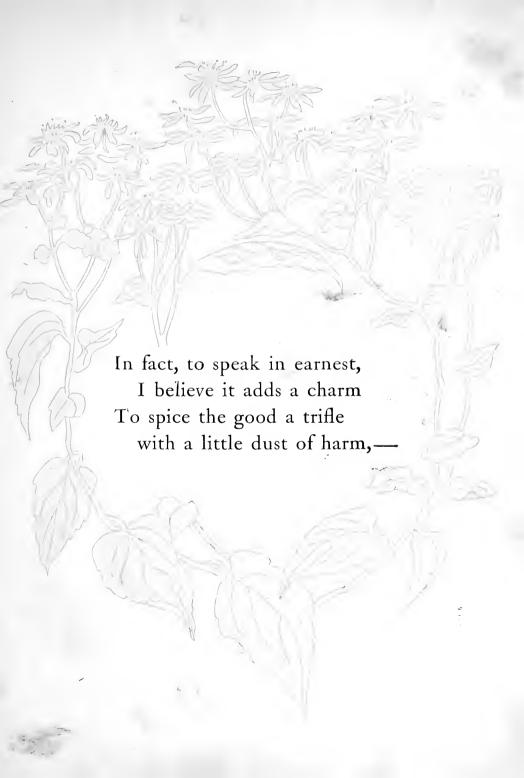


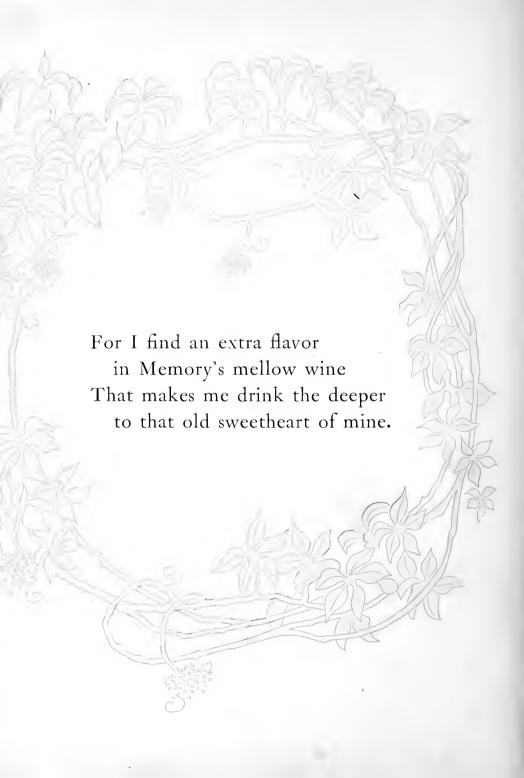








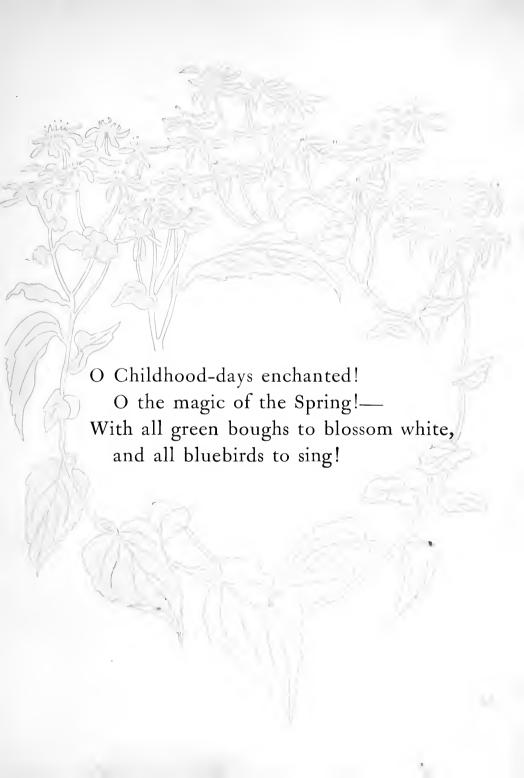


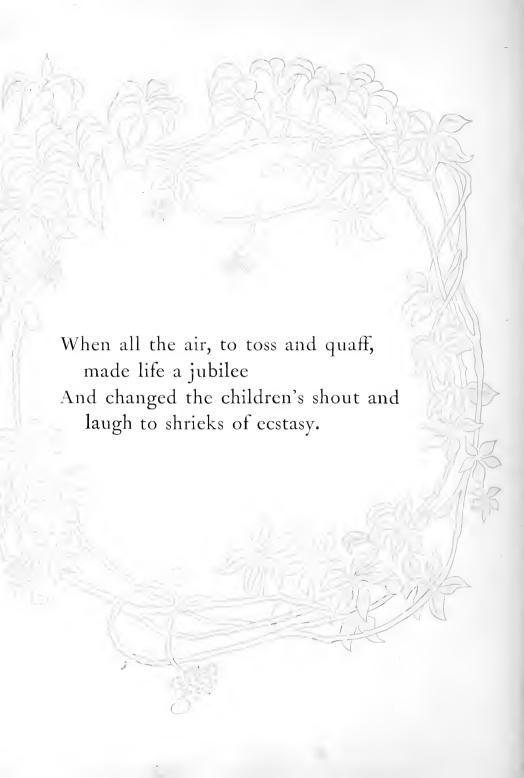




Housed Chereller Christy 172

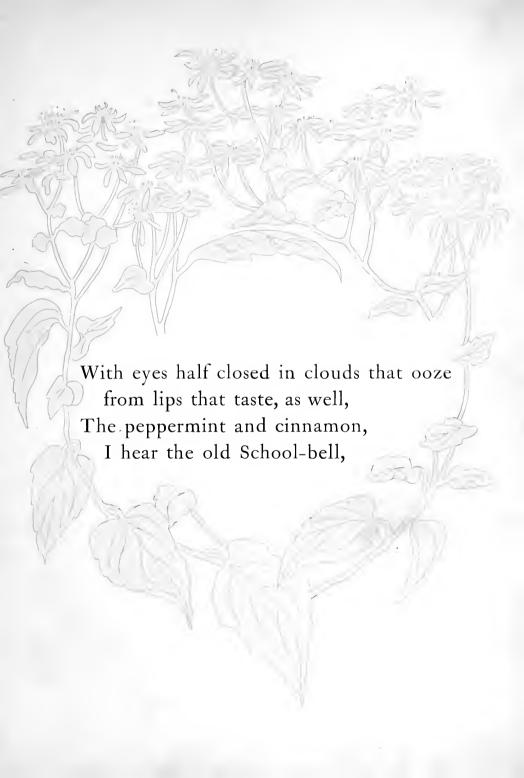


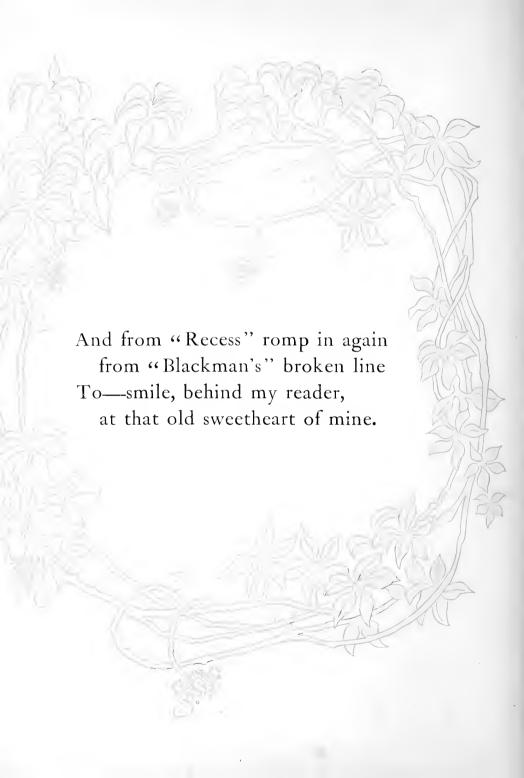






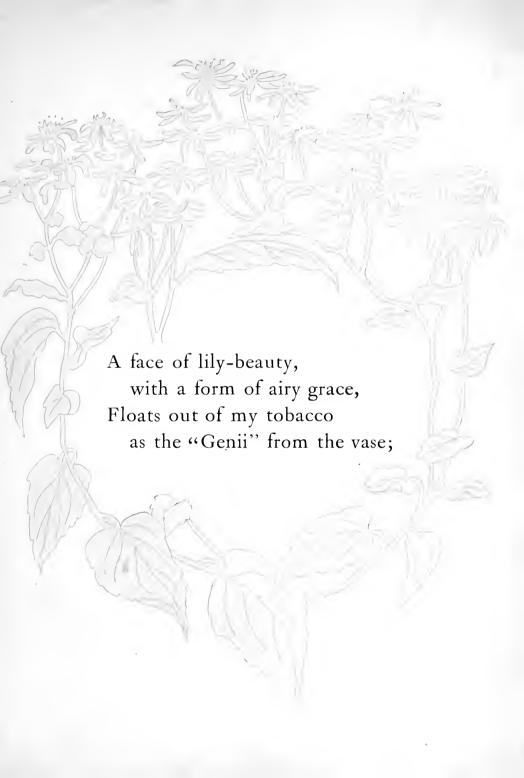


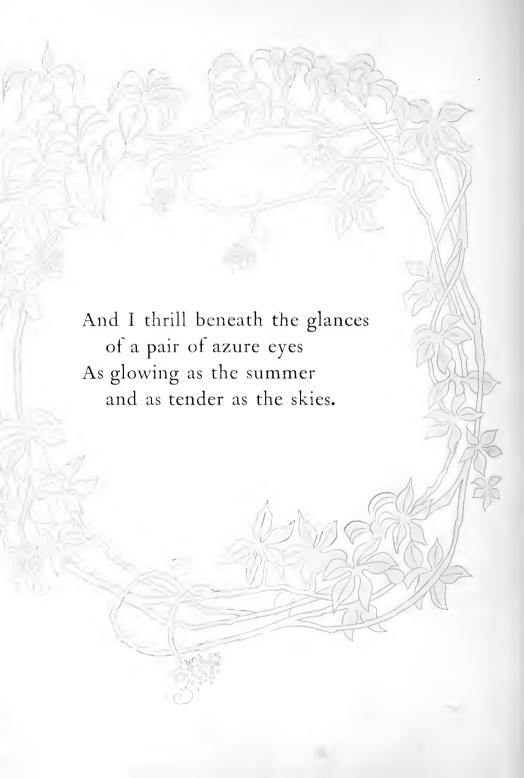






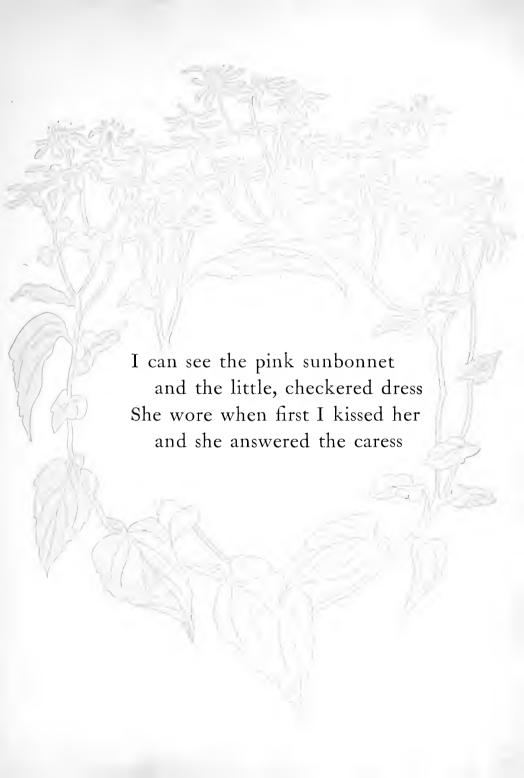


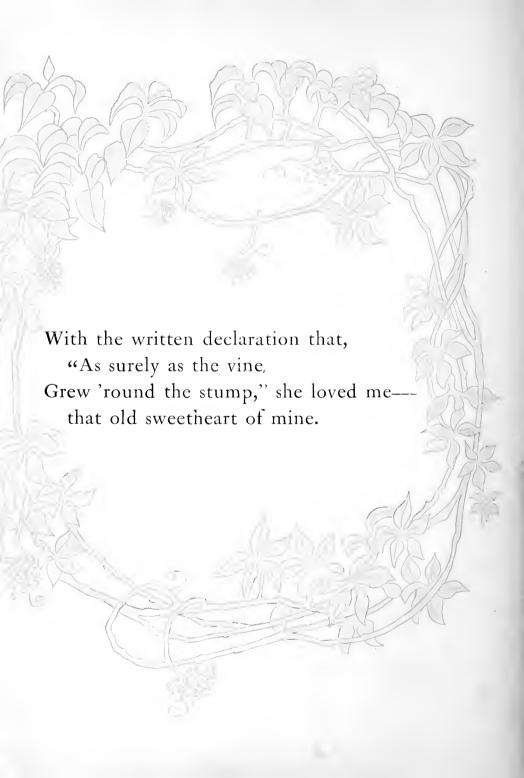
















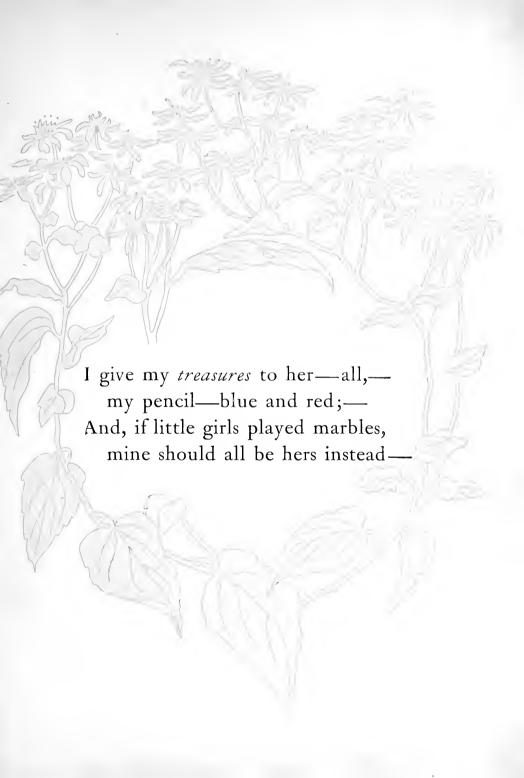
Again I made her presents,
in a really helpless way,—
The big "Rhode Island Greening"—
I was hungry too, that day!—

But I follow her from Spelling,
with her hand behind her—so—
And I slip the apple in it—
and the Teacher doesn't know!



Hamord & Handler Christy 18-



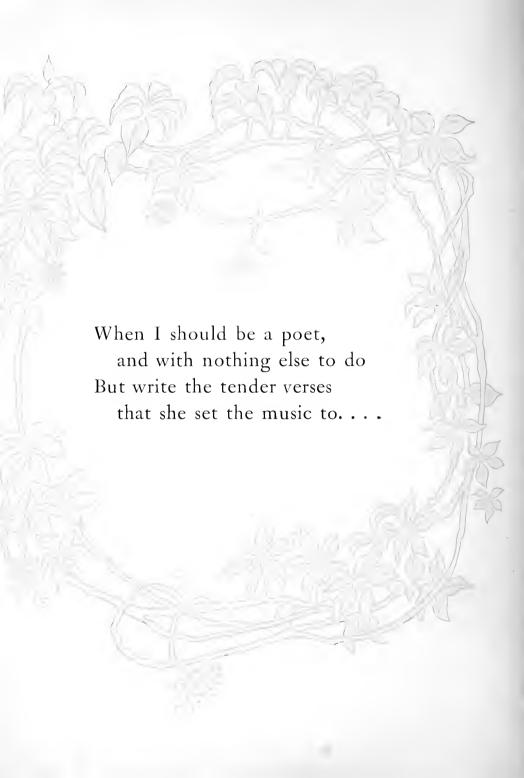


But she gave me her photograph, and printed "Ever Thine" Across the back—in blue-and-red that old sweetheart of mine!







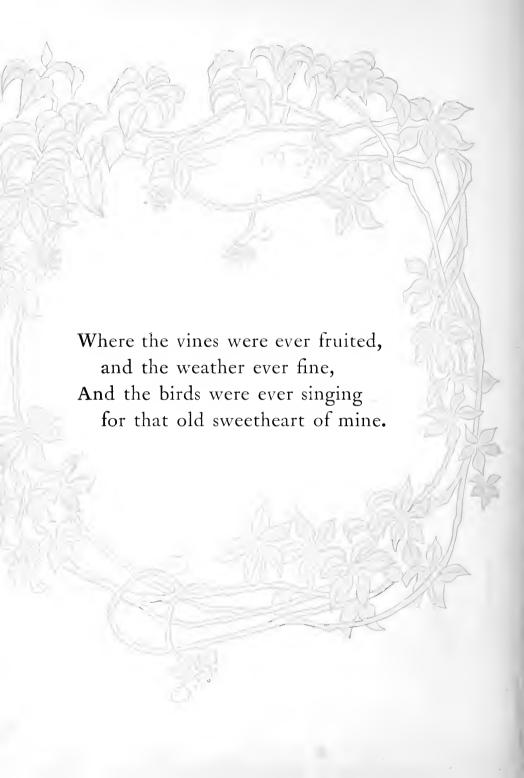




Annual Charles Frazi . 1 1-

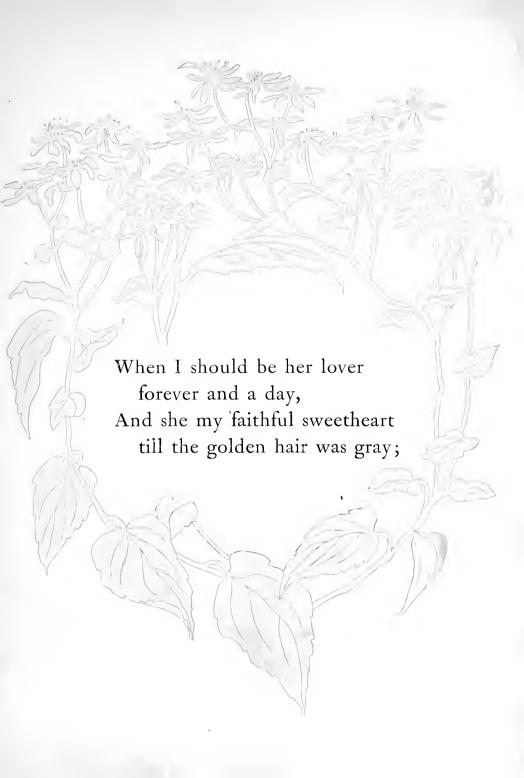


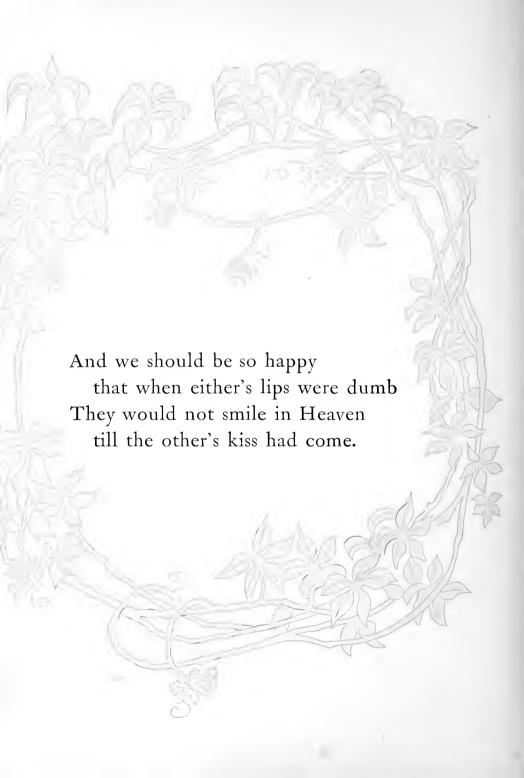






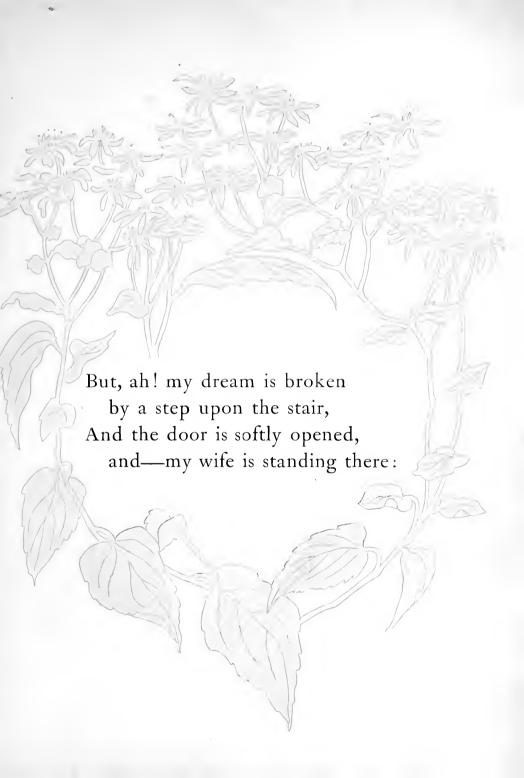


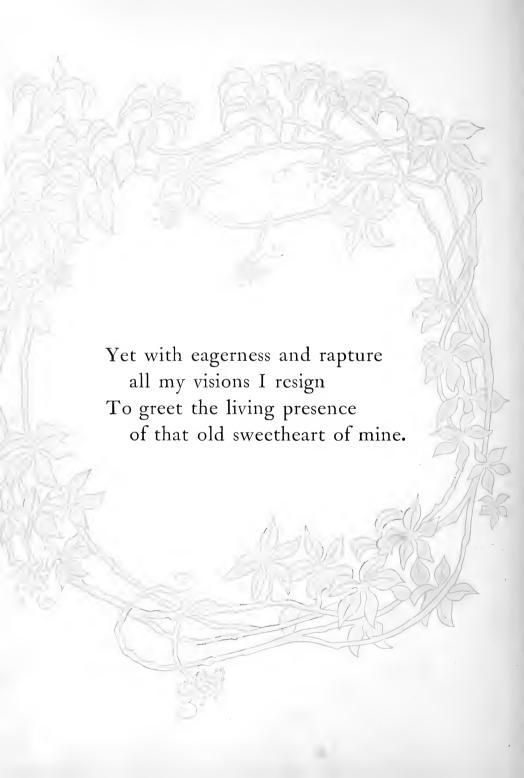














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